

# St. Bartholomew's Choir

<http://www.stbartholomews.ie/>

March 2004

## Paris Trip Update

As this newsletter goes to print we are less than a month away from our visit to Paris. As it stands now, the main events include:

- Concert in Chartres Cathedral (Weds 14th April at 4:30pm)
- Reception at the Embassy of Ireland (Thurs 15th April at 10:30am)
- Concert in La Madeleine (Thurs 15th April at 4:30pm)

• Concert in St George's Anglican Church (Fri 16th April at 8:30pm).

• Sung Eucharist in St George's Anglican Church (Sun 18th April).

Ireland holding the chair of the European Parliament means that it is a very busy time for all Irish diplomats, and as such we are delighted that His Excellency Padraig MacKernan is adjusting his

calendar so that he can receive us.

The choir will be staying at the same hostel as in 1998, which is:

Centre International de  
Séjour de Paris  
6, avenue Maurice Ravel  
F-75012 Paris  
France

Tel: +33 (0) 1 44 75 60 06  
<http://www.cisp.asso.fr/>

## Music of Lent

In the churches calendar there is no more rewarding time for choirs than the Lenten season music which so beautifully contrasts with the joys of the Easter repertoire. Just take a look at our music list for February and then March.

Lent began with the Allegri 'Miserere' (soloist Emmet Kiberd) at the Ash Wednesday Eucharist, followed by Byrd's anthem "Bow thine ear O Lord" on the first Sunday. The second Sunday featured Mendelssohn's "Hear my prayer" (soloist Emmet Kiberd), with the anthem "Lord let me know mine end" by Greene at Evensong

(soloists Killian Horan and Sebastian Adams).

"Hear my prayer" features what is probably the best known of all the treble solos in the church music repertoire, with the famous "O for the wings of a dove" that begins half way through. Before Emmet, the last boy to sing this taxing solo was Andrew Dempsey (now in our Alto line), and before that – we think – was Niall Morris, in the early 1980s. Niall is, of course, best known now as one of the Celtic Tenors.

As this newsletter goes to print, we have much more to look forward to. This includes Howells "Like as

the hart" on Sunday 14th, Bruckner "Ave maria" on Sunday 21st, and of course Byrd's five part mass and Lotti "Crucifixus" on Sunday 28th. In addition to this, the Girls' choir will sing a new setting, Batten's fourth service, on the evening of Sunday 21st, followed by Rutter's setting of "For the beauty of the earth".

Surely another highlight will be evensong on Sunday 28th, when the gentlemen will sing Tallis' "The Lamentations of Jeremiah". A huge amount of rehearsal time has gone into all this music, so if you are free please do come along.

## Table Quiz and Auction - Wednesday 31st March

What embassy is directly across the road from the back gate of St Bartholomew's? The answer might help you at the fundraising Table Quiz and Auction, to be held in Merrion Cricket Club on Wednesday 31st March at 8:15pm, immediately after the boys choir practice. (The club is approximately ten minutes walk from the church, though there is also parking available on site). Tables are available for 40 Euro, and may be taken on the night, or alternatively reserved in advance through any of the organisers (Richard Bannister, Robin Heather, Tony Conroy, Niamh Harty, Albert Horan, and Rita Creamer).

We would like to thank the many sponsors who have come forward with prizes, both for the Auction and for the winning table.

Prizes and Auction Items to be available on the night include:

- 4 watches (courtesy of H. Samuel Jewellers)

- 4 bottles Chilean Cabernet Sauvignon (courtesy Robin Heather)

- A week in a 3 bedroom Holiday Home in Ballyheigue, Co. Kerry (courtesy Niamh Harty and Colin Rogan).

- Super Valu Hamper (courtesy Super Valu, Co. Wicklow).

- Case of 6 French Wines from the Bergerac Region (courtesy Ben Mason, Wicklow Wine Company)

- Case of 6 French Wines from the Languedoc Region (courtesy Ben Mason, Wicklow Wine Company)

- Case of 6 New World Wines from Argentina, Australia, and South Africa

(courtesy Robin Heather).

- A trip in a Ferrari 348TS (400BHP, 0-60 in 4.8 seconds, 1994 model), along with a meal in Powerscourt Golf Club (courtesy Wyndham Beere)

- Dinner for four in Seanad Eireann (courtesy Senator Mary Henry)

- Further prizes yet to be announced!

We are also grateful to Pfizer International Bank Europe, who thanks to a representation from local Fianna Fail election candidate Michael Turley, will be donating a cheque for €500 to the choir fund.

If you can provide any additional prizes for the night, please get in touch with any of the people listed above, or send an e-mail to fundraising@stbartholomew.s.ie.

## Girls Choir Update

Those who attended evensong on Sunday 29th February can testify as to the great progress being made by the Girls Choir. There was some particularly beautiful singing in both the service setting, Dyson in F, and in the anthem, "View me Lord", by Lloyd.

The Baritone solo in the Nunc Dimittis was sung

by Robin Heather.

Both girls and men have had to adjust to blending together and this is coming through already.

Malcolm Wisener says that he has vacancies for two additional girls so put the word out and anyone interested should contact him to arrange for an audition.

## Bag Packing

The choir boys will be packing bags in Tesco Nutgrove all day on Saturday March 20th in order to raise money for activities in Paris. There are fifteen checkouts to be manned, so all help will be very welcome, both from choristers and others willing to assist! Further details from Niamh Harty.

## Some Historical Anecdotes

One Sunday a long time ago (circa 1950) Canon Simpson turned to bid the congregation to come forward to receive communion when, to his consternation, the first to arrive was a perky wheaten terrier. The vicar's churchwarden, Rear Admiral Sheridan was summoned forward, but the dog wasn't impressed with his rank and slipped around behind the altar. Upon the command from the Admiral, choir man Peter Mellon seized and dispatched the animal through the door at the side of the stalls! We were not allowed to laugh in those days but all that happened!

• Much admired by Canon Simpson was a regular St Bartholomew's worshipper and weekday communicant, Dr Kathleen Lynn (1874-1955). She was a committed republican and earned a jail sentence for her part in the Independence movement as Surgeon General to the Irish Citizen Army in 1916. Dr Lynn, shocked by social conditions in Dublin, co-founded St Ultan's Children's Hospital

in 1919. BB remembers her doing a GP visit to his family home around 1940, and throwing open the windows declaring that 'fresh air' was the best medicine. The house was already "freezing".

• While Canon Simpson didn't speak Irish, he was a strong supporter of the Irish Guild of the Church (Cumann Gaolach na hEaglaise) and presided at many of its meetings, which were to further the use of the language in the worship of the Church of Ireland. Reverend Sydney Craig, who followed him as Vicar was fluent in the language and celebrated the Eucharist in Irish each St Patrick's Day.

• When Robert Erskine Childers was executed in Beggars Bush Barracks (1922) within the parish, Canon Simpson had prayers said at all services for his soul on the Sunday which followed. This was against normal practice in the Church of Ireland at that time and the Canon came under much criticism from within and outside

the parish. Canon Simpson's compassion and courage transcended all political and church matters.

• Sometime after 1960 the choir was presented with a full set of green tailored cassocks by a very generous parishioner, and an entirely new green set were purchased circa 1997, this time through the kindness of a choir member. These are what we wear today. Before this the boys were attired according to the churches calendar. Purple cassocks were worn during Advent and Lent, and bright red for the festivals - Christmas, Easter, Ascension and Whit. The boys at these times wore starched collars and purple or red bows as appropriate. The boys surplices were waist length instead of the longer ones worn now. The gentlemen of the choir wore black cassocks throughout the whole year. The vicar and his curate wore black cassocks and white surplices with usually, if not all of the time, black stoles.

*Bobby Barden*

## Nicholas Milne

Former head boy Nicholas Milne was the Bass Viol soloist with the Irish Baroque Orchestra in St Peter's Drogheda on Monday, February 16th in

the Telemann Concerto in A for Alto Recorder and bass Viol. The performance was repeated in King's Inns, Dublin on Saturday February 21st. The Irish Times was

most enthusiastic about his performance. Nicholas, who was married in August 2002, lives in The Hague where he both performs and continues his Viol studies.

## Appreciating Choir Parents

We should never forget the efforts parents undertake in getting the boys along to services and practices week after week, especially those who come from a long distance away. The choir newsletter is a good means of keeping abreast of what is going on, and we hope that when they are distributed to the boys they always reach parents.

St Bartholomew's is a very open parish and it is totally up to individual parents to get involved in as little or as much as they wish. If there are any parish activities that you might like to take part in do not hesitate to ask Malcolm or any of the choir men about them.

The Sunday morning coffee rota is always seeking volunteers and maybe some-

one would like to try their hands (or fists) at ringing the bells. What you hear on Sunday mornings is a very old and malfunctioning carillon which is switched on and off from the vestry! Our very tuneful and beautiful peal of eight bells sound much nicer when played manually from the 'keyboard' in the belfry. If you are interested just ask Bobby Barden about them.

## Vicar Departs

The announcement by the Vicar, Father William Ritchie that he had been appointed Rector of the parish of Tullow, County Carlow came as a great surprise to us all. We will all be very sad to see Fr William depart after Easter and he will carry our best wishes with him for his new role. In addition to Tullow, his new parish also takes in Shillelagh, Aghold, and Mullinacuff.

## Killian Rogan

Six months after this newsletter first announced the fact, Killian Rogan has moved into the alto line.

Killian joined the choir six years ago at the age of eight years and has been a superb Headboy for the past two years. Cricket, scouting, choir and Tae kwon-do are among his interests which is surely quite a mix. Already he is starting to enjoy being 'one of the men' and singing alto.

## Inter-Schools Feis

The Wesley Inter-Schools Feis is an important precursor to the full Feis Ceoil, and this year two of our choristers have had notable successes, with Emmet Kiberd and Calvin O'Broin winning second and third place respectively in the Treble Solo category.

Emmet's sister Roisin won the Under 16 Soprano contest. Congratulations to all three.

## Visitor from Barbados

Robin Heather has asked us to note that, some twenty four years after his last visit, the Very Reverend Harold

Crichlow, Dean Emeritus of St Michael's Cathedral, Barbados preaches at the service on Sunday March 14th.

While in this country he will be looked after by June Heather and family.

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